

The Columbia & St. Clair Steamers

Local

State

State Marker

National v 11/2/79

Landmark v 7/6/92



The Columbia, built 1902, entered service July 8
Photo's courtesy of www.michigan.gov



The Ste. Claire, built 1910, launched May 7

Historic Overview:

The *Columbia* and *St. Clair* steamers are propeller-driven excursion steamers typical of the turn-of-the-century, a type once found in many parts of the country. Excursion steamers are steamships built primarily for passengers for day trips. The *Columbia* and *Ste. Clair* represent the “ocean going” type of excursion vessel although they were used on lakes. The passenger ships, designed by Frank E. Kirby shared their original run from Detroit to Bob-Lo Island for 81 years.

Ownership of *Columbia* was transferred to a New York maritime preservation group in January of 2003 who plan to return her to use along the Hudson River. The *St. Clair* is currently undergoing restoration in Toledo, Ohio, and it is planned to be returned to service.